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(56) Documents Cited
GB 2060398 A US 4743240 A

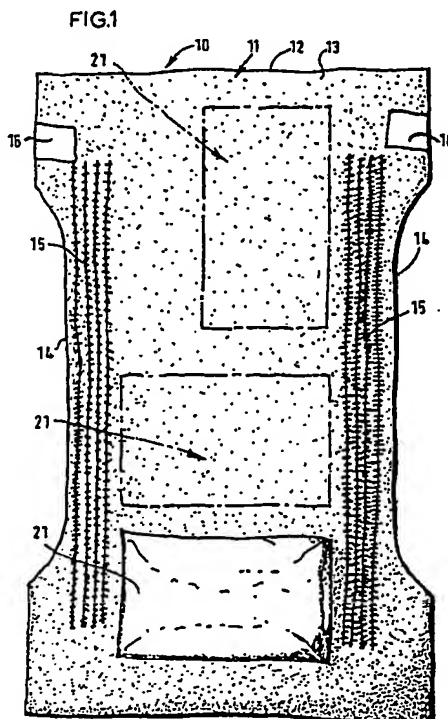
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(54) Disposable sanitary articles

(57) A disposable sanitary article 10 comprises: a pad of absorbent material 12; a disposable bag 21 made of an impervious material that is releasably attached to the pad; and one or more members of impervious material of which each sealingly encloses a cleaning item, the or each member being itself enclosed by the bag. The or each member may be wrapped up in the bag, or may be disposed inside the bag or may be formed integrally with the bag - in which case the or each member is frangibly separable (e.g. via tearable perforations) from the bag.

The sanitary articles may be a sanitary napkin for the absorption of menstrual emissions, or an incontinence article, or a nappy or diaper.

The cleaning items may be a cleaning cloth moistened with a volatile cleaning fluid, or a dry cloth, or talcum powder, or cleansing cream or lotion, or a cream or lotion applicator (e.g. a cotton wool pad).



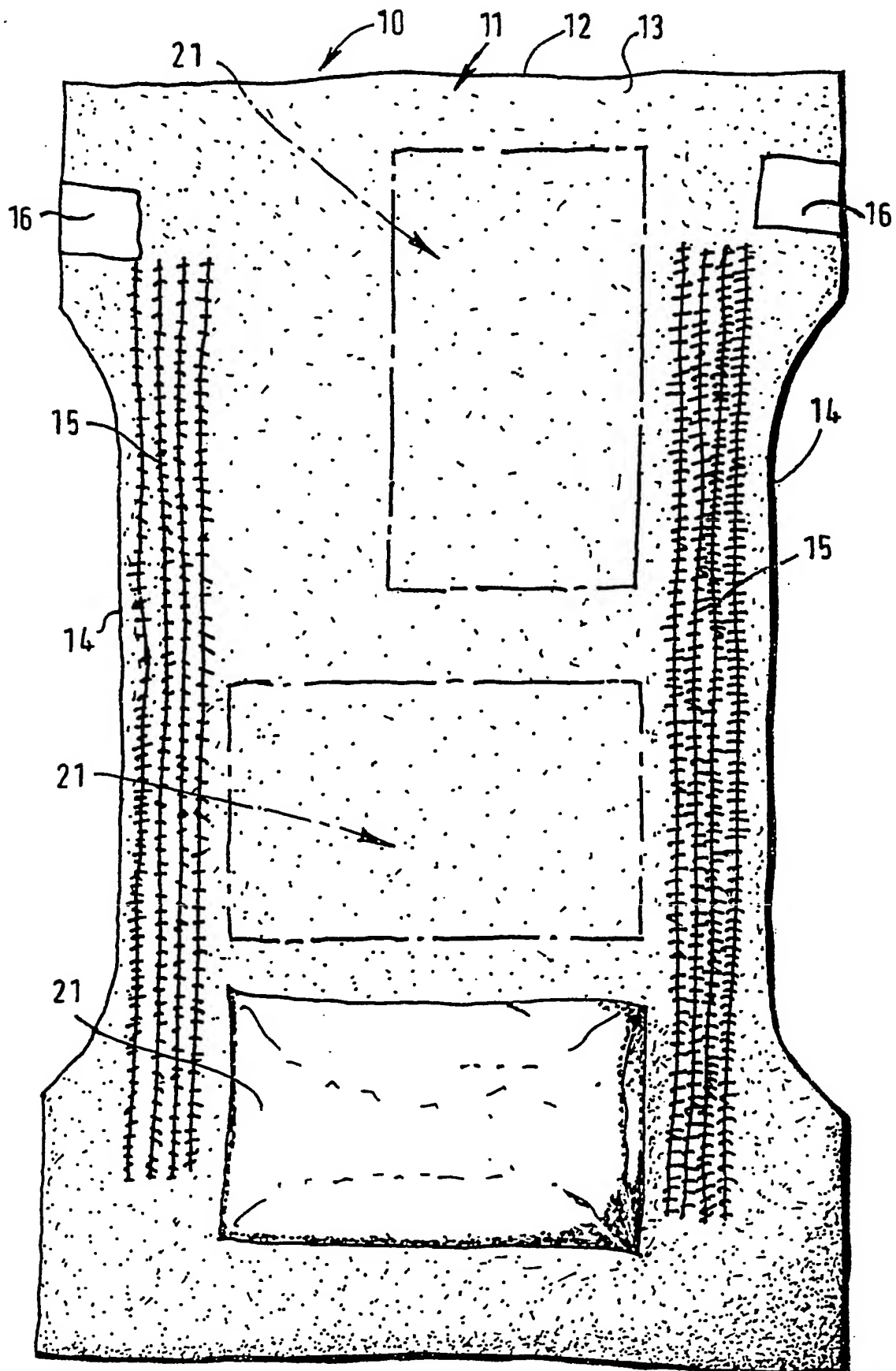
At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1990.

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FIG.1

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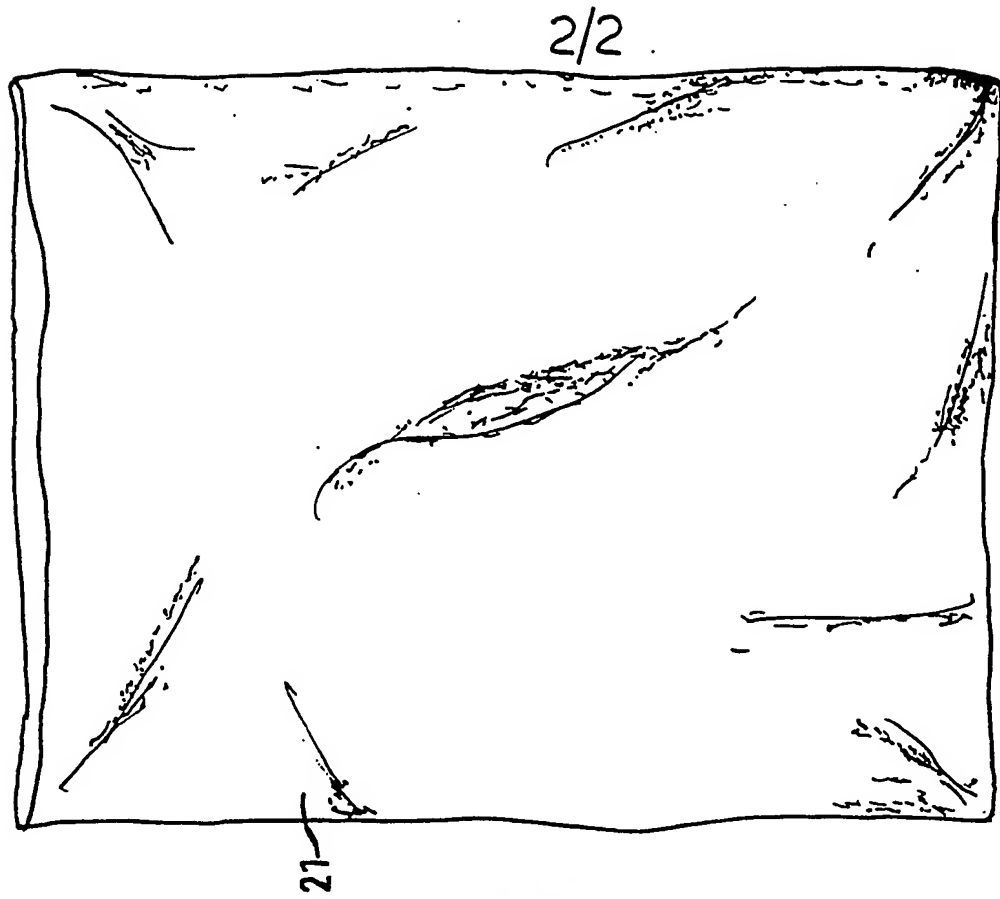
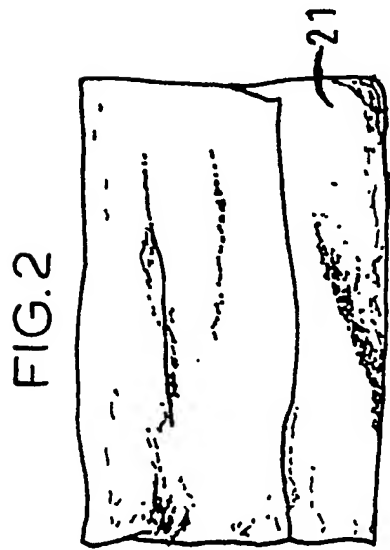


FIG. 3

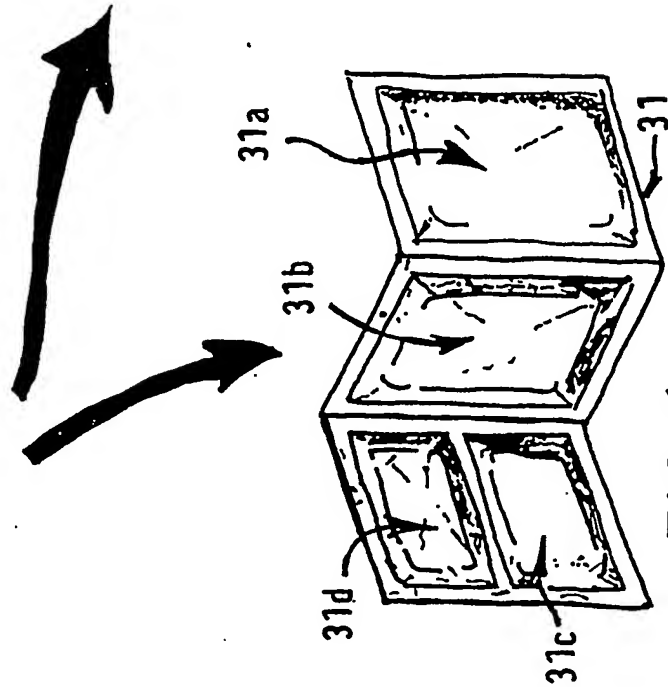


FIG. 4

DISPOSABLE SANITARY ARTICLES

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DESCRIPTION

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This invention relates to disposable sanitary articles comprising an absorbent pad. Various forms of such articles are known, e.g. nappies (or diapers), sanitary napkins for the absorption of menstrual emissions, incontinence articles and the like.

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Problems relating to the disposal of such sanitary articles have already been addressed in the prior art. Examples include the constructions proposed in UK Patent Publications Nos. 1518540, 2060398 and 2167375. However

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none of such prior proposals is concerned with the need to clean the body area(s) before the fresh sanitary article is applied thereto in replacement of a used, usually soiled, sanitary article that has been removed. (Usually, of course, the fresh replacement sanitary article is only necessary because such body area(s), and the old sanitary article being replaced, are in a soiled state). The

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present invention is primarily concerned with this cleaning need.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a disposable sanitary article comprising:

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a first member comprising a pad of absorbent material;
a second member of impervious material in the form of a bag that is releasably attached to said first member;
and

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at least one third member of impervious material which sealingly encloses a cleaning item, the or each said third member being itself enclosed by the said second member.

1 The or each said third member may be wrapped up in the said second member (i.e. be encompassed by an exterior surface of the said second member).

5 Alternatively the or each said third member may be disposed inside the said bag (i.e. be encompassed by an interior surface of the said second member).

10 In another alternative, the or each said third member may be formed integrally with the said second member. Preferably, in this case, the or each said third member is frangibly separable (e.g. via tearable perforations) from the said second member.

15 The sanitary articles may be a sanitary napkin for the absorption of menstrual emissions, or an incontinence article, or (as is preferred) a nappy or diaper.

20 Advantageously the said pad of the first member has an outer layer of impervious material, and the said second member is attached to said outer layer by means including a releasable adhesive.

25 Preferably said bag is folded up in the form of a rectangle and is adhered to the said outer layer by a quick-release contact adhesive and/or by an adhesive tape that extends across one or more edges of the rectangle. Where the or each said third member is wrapped up within the folds of the said second member, the adhesive tape may serve to
30 retain the or each said third member in its condition of enclosure by the said second member.

Advantageously the or each cleaning item is a selected one of the following (without duplication):

- 35 a cleaning cloth moistened with a volatile cleaning fluid;
 a dry cloth;

talcum powder;
cleansing cream or lotion;
cream or lotion applicator (e.g. cotton wool pad).

5 Preferably a plurality of such third members is provided, those third members comprising sachets formed of a metallic foil or like material, the several sachets being edge-connected to one another.

10 Advantageously the edge-connected sachets are disposed in fan-folded (concertina) fashion.

By way of example one embodiment of this invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:

15 Figure 1 is a plan view of a sanitary package according to this invention in a partly unfolded state,
Figure 2 is a plan view of a bag (in folded up state) when removed from the package of Fig 1,
20 Figure 3 is is a plan view of the bag of Fig 2 when in its unfolded state, and
Figure 4 is a schematic perspective view of interconnected sachets removed from the enclosing environment of the bag of Fig 2.

25 The illustrated embodiment of the invention provides a single package 10 comprising three mutually combined or interconnected - though functionally separate - kinds of component articles.

30 The first, and main component is a disposable sanitary article in the form of an infant's nappy or diaper 11. The nappy 11 comprises a main member 12 in the form of a pad of absorbent material provided with an outer layer 13 of
35 impervious material, the nappy having cut outs 14 in its sides adjacent elasticated side strips 15, and a pair of adhesive tapes 16 adjacent one end to be fasten to the

other end of the nappy when securing the nappy about the infant.

5 The second component is a disposal bag 21 of impervious material in rolled up or, as shown, in a folded up state and which, in its rolled-up or folded-up state, is releasably attached to the outer layer 13 of the nappy 11. This bag 21 serves to enclose the third component before the package is opened or used (i.e. as part of the package 10), and thereafter can be used as a disposal bag for a soiled nappy (e.g. that is to be replaced by the nappy 11 of this embodiment).

15 The third component comprises a plurality of sachets 31 each sealingly enclosing a cleaning item, the several sachets 31 being edge-connected to one another in fan-folded (concertina) fashion and being themselves enclosed by the folded-up or rolled-up bag 21.

20 The sachets 31 of this embodiment are formed of metallic foil or a like impervious material, and each contains a cleaning item selected (without duplication) from the following:

25 a cleaning cloth moistened with a volatile cleaning fluid;

a dry cloth;

cleansing cream or lotion;

a cream or lotion applicator (e.g. a cotton wool pad or wad);

30 talcum powder.

For example, a full-size sachet 31a at one end may contain a folded-up cleaning cloth moistened with a volatile cleaning fluid; an adjoining full-size sachet 31b may contain a dry cloth; and two half-size sachets 31c and 31d (connected to the opposite edge of sachet 31b) may contain 35 respectively a cleansing cream (or lotion) and talcum powder.

The fan-folded sachets 31 may be wrapped up in the rolled-up bag 21 (i.e. be encompassed by an exterior surface of the bag). Alternatively the fan-folded sachets 31 may be disposed inside the rolled-up or folded-up bag 21 (i.e. be encompassed by an interior surface of the bag). In yet another alternative, the sachets 15 may be formed integrally with the bag (e.g. where the sachets and bag are of a similar material - for example a plastics material) and conveniently in this case the sachets may be frangibly separable from the bag - e.g. via tearable perforations.

The bag 21 is preferably folded up in the form of a rectangle and is adhered to the outer layer 13 of the nappy 11 in the full-line position shown in Fig 1 or in some other convenient position, e.g. one of the two alternative positions indicated by phantom lines in Fig 1. The disposal bag 21 can have any convenient size (both in its unfolded and/or unrolled state and in its rolled-up and/or folded-up state) and can be sited in any suitable position on the nappy's outer layer 13. Attachment of bag 21 to layer 13 is by a quick-release, contact adhesive and/or by an adhesive tape that extends across one or more edges of the rectangle. Where the fan-folded sachets 31 are wrapped up within the folds of the folded-up bag 21, the adhesive tape may serve to retain the sachets in their condition of enclosure by the bag 21.

In use the package 10 is opened to reveal the three combined articles 11, 21 and 31, the bag 21 is separated from the nappy 11 and unfolded or unrolled, and the sachets 31 are removed. The used (soiled) nappy worn by the infant is removed and placed for disposal inside the bag 21. The sachets 31a to 31d are opened and their therein-contained cleaning items used sequentially to clean the infant's soiled body areas. The used (and any remaining unused) cleaning items, as well as the empty (and any unused) sachets, are then deposited into the disposal bag 21. The

fresh nappy 11 is then fastened in place about the cleaned body areas of the infant to conclude the nappy-changing operation in a clean and efficacious manner.

5 It will be apparent that the cleaning materials or items are provided in the sachets 31 as small one-off "doses" within the same package as the fresh nappy and the disposal bag (that is for the soiled nappy being replaced by the fresh nappy). This removes the need for the parent or child
10 minder always to have on hand, particularly when away from home (e.g. whilst travelling, out shopping or on holiday), a number of separate large bottles, jars and other containers of the various cleaning materials which would otherwise have to be carried with the spare or replacement
15 nappies.

Modifications and embodiments of the invention other than those described above will be readily apparent to those skilled in this art. All such modifications and embodiments
20 are to be deemed within the ambit and scope of the invention, and the invention is not to be deemed limited to the particular embodiment(s) hereinbefore described which may be varied in construction and detail without departing from the scope of the patent monopoly hereby sought.

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CLAIMS

1. A disposable sanitary article comprising:

5 a first member comprising a pad of absorbent material;
a second member of impervious material in the form of a bag
that is releasably attached to said first member; and

at least one third member of impervious material which
sealingly encloses a cleaning item, the or each said third
member being itself enclosed by the said second member.

10 2. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 1,
wherein the or each said third member is wrapped up in the
said second member.

15 3. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 1,
wherein the or each said third member is disposed inside
the said bag.

20 4. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 1,
wherein the or each said third member is formed integrally
with the said second member.

25 5. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 4,
wherein the or each said third member is frangibly
separable from the said second member.

30 6. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 4,
wherein the or each said third member is frangibly
separable via tearable perforations from the said second
member.

35 7. A disposable sanitary article according to any
preceding Claim, wherein the said pad of the first member
has an outer layer of impervious material, and the said
second member is attached to said outer layer by means
including a releasable adhesive.

8. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 7, wherein said bag is folded up in the form of a rectangle and is adhered to the said outer layer by a quick-release contact adhesive.

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9. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 7 or Claim 8, wherein said bag is folded up in the form of a rectangle and is adhered to the said outer layer by an adhesive tape that extends across one or more edges of the rectangle.

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10. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 9 when dependant on Claim 2, wherein the adhesive tape serves to retain the or each said third member in its condition of enclosure by the said second member.

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11. A disposable sanitary article according to any preceding Claim, wherein the or each cleaning item is a selected one of the following (without duplication):

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a cleaning cloth moistened with a volatile cleaning fluid;

a dry cloth;

talcum powder;

cleansing cream or lotion;

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cream or lotion applicator (e.g. a cotton wool pad).

12. A disposable sanitary article according to any preceding Claim and comprising a plurality of said third members, the third members comprising sachets formed of a metallic foil or like material, and the several sachets being edge-connected to one another.

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13. A disposable sanitary article according to Claim 12, wherein the edge-connected sachets are disposed in fan-folded (concertina) fashion.

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14. A disposable sanitary article according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 and constituting a sanitary napkin for the absorption of menstrual emissions.

5 15. A disposable sanitary article according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 and constituting an incontinence article.

16. A disposable sanitary article according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 and constituting a nappy or diaper.

10 17. A disposable sanitary article substantially as herein described with reference to and/or as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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Relevant Technical Fields

(i) UK Cl (Ed.L) A5R (RPG)

(ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) A61F 13/15

Search Examiner
N A FRANKLIN

Date of completion of Search
30 NOVEMBER 93

Databases (see below)

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

(ii) ONLINE DATABASE: WPI

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
1-17

Categories of documents

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| <p>X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.</p> <p>Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.</p> <p>A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.</p> | <p>P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.</p> <p>E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.</p> <p>&: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.</p> |
|--|---|

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
Y	GB 2060398 A (L'OREAL) Note Figure 1, page 3 lines 19-30	1 at least
Y	US 4743240 (POWELL) Note column 4 lines 24-47	1 at least

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